

care district to receive a higher reimbursement for its Medicare patients. The John C. Fremont Health Care District supplies education to the community by conducting CPR courses, Certified Nursing Assistant programs, and Licensed Vocational Nurse prerequisite programs. The health care district is one of the largest employers in the area with 168 employees.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John C. Fremont Hospital for serving the health care needs in Mariposa County for 50 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing John C. Fremont Hospital many more years of continued success.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEXINGTON ELKS LODGE, LEXINGTON, MISSOURI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate my friends at the Lexington Elks Lodge, Lexington, Missouri, who recently celebrated their 100th Anniversary as a lodge.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge 749 has served a proud role in the city of Lexington since the lodge's chartering in 1901. The Elks have played a vital and active role in the community, sponsoring programs aimed to better the town, the people, and the people's safety.

The Elks organization is primarily involved in two community service programs, drug awareness and veteran services. Lexington Elks are strong supporters of the D.A.R.E. program in Lexington schools. They have sponsored the purchase of D.A.R.E. signs and drug awareness programs. The Elks also show support and appreciation to the veterans of our nation.

The Lexington Elks Lodge has sponsored numerous other community projects. They have distributed fire alarms, hosted community Christmas dinners, donated to organizations such as the Ministerial Alliance and they sponsor a yearly scholarship for graduating high school seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the Lexington Elks Lodge has contributed to the city for a century. I know that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating them and wishing them continued success.

SALUTE TO AL ROSS

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has served his country bravely and who also serves as a role model in his community.

I speak of Al Ross, one of my constituents and the youngest surviving veteran of the First World War. Al, the son of Russian immigrants, enlisted in the United States Navy in 1917, when he was only 16 years old. He served as a Seaman First Class aboard the U.S.S. Richmond. In fact, Al is the last surviving member

of Barracks 507, a West Palm Beach World War One veterans group.

On October 11, 2001, my friend Al Ross turns 100 years old. He is a frequent speaker at veterans', civic, and school events and is best known for his talks about "Why We Pledge the Flag." Mr. Ross gives these talks in his original U.S. Navy uniform, which still fits him perfectly.

Al Ross has been a teacher and organizer for the National Amputee Foundation. He has worked for the Palm Beach Daily News and the Selective Service System. Most recently, Mr. Ross has been an advocate for the voting rights of U.S. military personnel serving overseas. He is also an avid golfer.

Mr. Speaker, please let the RECORD reflect this Congress' appreciation for his efforts.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY
NEEDED

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial, entitled President Needs Trade Authority, from the September 5, 2001, edition of the Norfolk Daily News, which emphasizes the need to grant the President "fast track" trade negotiating authority.

This Member is a longtime supporter of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), or "FastTrack Authority" (as it was previously called), because TPA is necessary to enable the United States to commence, conclude, and implement trade agreements with foreign nations. Without the enactment of TPA, the United States will continue to fall further behind in expanding its export base, which in turn will cost America thousands of potential jobs. Congressional passage of TPA for the President is absolutely essential for America to live up to its export potential.

Therefore, this Member urges his colleagues not only to carefully read this editorial, but also to support granting trade promotion authority to the President now!

[From the Daily News, September 5, 2001]

PRESIDENT NEEDS TRADE AUTHORITY
FORMER SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE OF ONE
MIND REGARDING "FAST TRACK" ISSUE

Members of Congress ought to be impressed that 10 former secretaries of agriculture, Democrats and Republicans alike, are in agreement on an important matter of trade policy. From Orville Freeman, who served under President Kennedy, to Dan Glickman, who served under President Clinton, all were in agreement that President Bush ought to be granted "fast track" trade negotiating authority.

With some exceptions among those in farm organizations who fear only big companies find ways to profit from exports, the agricultural community seems unified regarding benefits of foreign trade. That accounts for broad bipartisan support of measures to promote it.

Presidents had fast-track authority beginning in 1974, and until congressional Republicans failed to renew it for the Clinton administration in 1994. They erred, and that error should not now be compounded. Trade negotiations are already conducted under broad guidelines approved by Congress and the president.

Having arrived at specific trade pacts under such authority, Congress must not pick and choose, second-guess and thereby jeopardize agreements. With the fast-track arrangements, it can either accept or reject an agreement, not nitpick and rewrite the terms. Thus Congress retains an overall veto; the president retains negotiating power. It is the right balance.

Through the administrations of Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush I and early in the first Clinton term, the fast-track authority existed in the White House. The error of failing to restore it after 1994 should not be compounded now by defeat of the proposal.

America's efficiency in all phases of food production means it can compete effectively on a worldwide basis. This advantage cannot be exercised to improve the economic status of agriculture by tying the hands of the one individual who can, with a cooperative Congress, do most to encourage beneficial trading terms to reach consumers in foreign nations.

The letter to current Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, signed by those 10 former secretaries, said, "American agriculture has much to gain by passage of Trade Promotion Authority and too much to lose if Congress fails to seize this opportunity."

Re-establishing this authority would do much to assure Americans, and especially those involved in farming and ranching, that their economic opportunities will not be hostage to narrow partisanship.

HONORING 76 YEARS OF THE NEW
ENGLAND COUNCIL

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New England Council as they celebrate their 76th Anniversary of being a regional voice for the people of New England.

For over seventy-five years, the New England Council has been instrumental in uniting the region's business and political leaders to discuss and shape public policies and programs that advance the economic well-being of the region. As a non-profit alliance of schools, hospitals, corporations, public agencies and other organizations throughout New England, the Council has worked diligently to promote economic growth and quality of life in the six-state region.

I commend your leadership in looking for regional solutions on issues including energy, workforce development, health care, transportation and privacy. Under the leadership of Jim Brett and the Council's esteemed Board of Directors, the Council has played a significant role in both providing a forum and in advocating an agenda that addresses those issues impacting New Englanders and the regional economy.

I applaud the Council's efforts to promote the economic growth of New England and to improve the quality of life for those who live throughout the region.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 76th Anniversary of the New England Council and in wishing the Council continued success as it faces the challenges and possibilities of the 21st Century.